

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000635

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/30/2013

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#) [NLD](#) [ASSK](#)

SUBJECT: NLD, GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS CLASH IN NORTHERN BURMA

11. (C) Summary: The military junta may be preparing a new crackdown on Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy. At a news conference May 31, the government accused the NLD of provoking a riot in Sagaing Division northwest of Mandalay that left four dead and more than 50 injured. It also closed NLD headquarters and placed members of the NLD's Central Executive Committee under house arrest in Rangoon. Aung San Suu Kyi herself, and senior members of her traveling party, have been held in Ye Oo in Sagaing Division, ostensibly for their own safety. End Summary.

12. (U) At a press conference held May 31, the SPDC accused the NLD of provoking a riot on May 30 in Depeyin in Sagaing Division northwest of Mandalay. According to the government, Aung San Suu Kyi's traveling party was met by a crowd of about 5,000 anti-NLD protesters as it reached Depeyin. An argument broke out which degenerated into about a riot, leaving four dead and more than 50 wounded. According to news reports (which we have not been able to confirm), Aung San Suu Kyi's car was also hit by gunfire. She was not hurt, but was taken, together with 19 members of her traveling party, to Ye Oo in Sagaing Division (also northwest of Mandalay), where she was held, ostensibly for her own safety. In Rangoon, NLD headquarters was closed and members of the NLD's Central Executive Committee were placed under house arrest. Burmese police special branch members told Poloff on May 31 that both NLD spokesman U Lwin and CEC member U Nyunt Wei have been detained under section 10(B) of Burma's Public Security Act, which allows the government to detain "subversive elements" for up to one year without a trial. Most likely, all other members of the NLD's Central Executive Committee have also been placed under house arrest.

13. (U) Earlier in the day, the government's official newspaper, the Myanmar Alin carried stories on its front and back pages which accused the NLD of provoking disturbances in Chaung U and Mon Ywa in Burma's Sagaing division. According to the newspaper, in Ye Bo San village and Mon Ywa, ASSK's party, reportedly about 150 people traveling in 16 cars and 70 motorcycles, ended up in an altercation with "peaceful protesters" that left several injured and resulted in both sides filing charges at local police station. According to the government, this followed clashes earlier in the month in Kachin State and Mandalay Division between NLD supporters and protesters.

14. (U) As yet, the NLD has not yet been able to provide its version of these latest events. Earlier in the week, however, the NLD's U Lwin had described the clashes in Kachin State and Mandalay Division as having been provoked by regime supporters, who physically threatened Aung San Suu Kyi and her party.

Comment

15. (C) We do not have the full story yet on the events in Sagaing, but this may be the beginning of a new government crackdown on the NLD. There have been rumors in Rangoon for several days that June was to be the month in which the government brought the NLD to heel. The events in Sagaing may be the start of that campaign. End Comment.
Martinez